

Message Text

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O 240245Z OCT 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186304

FOL TEL SENT ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS
FM STATE SEPT 18 REPEATED

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186304

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652
TAGS: CI, US, PINT
SUBJ: CHILEAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. YOU MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING IF ASKED ABOUT YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN CHILE.
 2. EARLY ON THE MORNING OF SEPT 11, THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES AND NATIONAL POLICE LAUNCHED A COUP TO DEPOSE THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. THE COUP WAS INITIATED IN MAJOR PORT CITY OF VALPARAISO, BUT THE SHARPEST FIGHTING ENSUED IN THE CAPITOL OF SANTIAGO WHERE TROOPS BESIEGED PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND ALLENDE'S SUBURBAN RESIDENCE. AFTER TANK AND AERIEL BOMBARDMENT, THE OCCUPANTS OF THE PALACE SURRENDERED IN EARLY AFTERNOON OF SEPT. 11. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE MILITARY ANNOUNCED THAT ALLENDE HAD DIED DURING THE
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SIEGE A SUICIDE. WHILE THERE ARE LINGERING DOUBTS ABOUT

THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALLENDE'S DEATH, HIS WIFE PUBLICLY
EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT IT WAS A SUICIDE.

3. ALTHOUGH SNIPING CONTINUED IN DOWNTOWN AREA FOR
SEVERAL DAYS, THE FOCUS OF CIVILIAN RESISTANCE SHIFTED TO
WORKER-OCCUPIED FACTORIES AND LOW-INCOME DISTRICTS.
MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS ARE STILL PROCEEDING. PRO-ALLENDE
ELEMENTS IN SEVERAL INSTANCES ATTACKED MILITARY INSTALLA-
TIONS BUT REPORTEDLY WERE REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSSES.

4. FIGHTING WAS INTENSE AND PROTRACTED IN SOME PLACES.
CASUALTY ESTIMATES VARY WIDELY, BUT JUNTA PRESIDENT GENERAL
PINOCHE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT LESS THAN 100 PERSONS
WERE KILLED. ONLY LIMITED SKIRMISHING HAS THUS FAR BEEN
REPORTED ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY AND THE JUNTA HAS
REPEATEDLY ANNOUNCED ITS COMPLETE CONTROL. ONE WEEK
AFTER THE COUP PUBLIC SERVICES ARE GETTING BACK TO SOME-
THING APPROACHING NORMAL. GENERAL ATMOSPHERE SEEMS TO
HAVE CALMED CONSIDERABLY. ACCORDING TO MILITARY, A FEW
"POCKETS" OF RESISTANCE STILL REMAIN.

5. ON SEPT. 12, ARMY GENERAL AUGUSTO PINOCHET ASSUMED
PRESIDENCY OF JUNTA AND SWEORE IN AN OVERWHELMINGLY MILI-
TARY CABINET. THE JUNTA HAS AVOWED ITS ANTI-MARXIST
POSITION AND HAS PLEDGED TO PRESERVE WORKER'S SOCIAL
GAINS AND RESTORE "INSTITUTIONAL NORMALITY" AND ECONOMIC
LIFE. CONGRESS HAS BEEN DISSOLVED AND THE JUNTA HAS
DECLARED THAT THEIR INTERVENTION WILL LAST AS LONG AS
NECESSARY. CHILEAN SUPREME COURT AND THE SEVERAL NON-
MARXIST PARTIES HAVE EXPRESSED VARYING SHADES OF SUPPORT
FOR THE JUNTA.

6. THE MILITARY'S VIGOR IN PUTTING DOWN ARMED RESISTANCE,
ITS EFFORTS TO ROUND UP PROMINENT ALLENDE SUPPORTERS, AND
OTHER STATE-OF-SIEGE MEASURES, AND THE DRAMATIC CIRCUM-
STANCES OF ALLENDE'S DEMISE, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO
INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND IN A NUMBER OF CASES DIS-
APPROVAL. SOME FIFTEEN NATIONS ALREADY HAVE RECOGNIZED
THE JUNTA OR OTHERWISE INDICATED THEY WILL CONTINUE
RELATIONS.

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7. ON SEPT. 17, CUBA TOOK TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL ITS
COMPLAINT THAT THE CHILEANS HAD LAUNCHED UNPROVOKED
ATTACKS AGAINST ITS CHANCERY BUILDING IN SANTIAGO AND ONE
OF ITS MERCHANT VESSELS. THESE ACCUSATIONS WERE JOINED
TO THE ALLEGATION THAT THE US ACTIVELY CONDONED OR
SUPPORTED THE COUP. THE CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVE COUNTERED
BY CHARGING CUBA WITH HAVING INTERVENED IN CHILE'S

INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE STATED THAT CUBAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL FIRED FIRST AT CHILEAN SOLDIERS REGULARLY ASSIGNED TO GUARD EMBASSY AND THAT CUBAN MERCHANT VESSEL WAS PURSUED AFTER LEAVING PORT WITHOUT PROPER CLEARANCES AND IGNORING RADIO MESSAGE TO STOP.

8. OTHER ALLEGATIONS BEING MADE AGAINST US ARE THE CHARGE OF FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE MILITARY COUP AND FAILURE TO WARN ALLENDE GOVERNMENT OR ACTUAL COMPLICITY IN ALLENDE OVERTHROW. THESE ACCUSATIONS HAVE BEEN FUELED BY ASSERTIONS THAT PRESENCE OF US NAVAL VESSELS IN AREA ENGAGED IN ANNUAL UNITAS EXERCISE AND WASHINGTON CONSULTATION OF AMBASSADOR DAVIS JUST BEFORE COUP "PROVE" FOREKNOWLEDGE, THESE ALLEGATIONS FORMALLY MADE BY CUBANS IN SEPT. 17 UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. THESE CHARGES SHOULD BE REJECTED CATEGORICALLY.

9. WITH REGARD TO SUPPOSED FOREKNOWLEDGE, THERE HAD FOR MONTHS BEEN ALMOST DAILY REPORTS OF DISRUPTIONS AND PREDICTIONS OF SOME FORM OF MILITARY INTERVENTION. THIS INFORMATION WAS, OF COURSE, REPORTED BY OUR EMBASSY. HOWEVER, WE HAD NO CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIFIC COUP PLANS. FURTHER, IT SEEMS CLEAR ALLENDE WAS WELL AWARE OF THESE REPORTS. IN FACT, COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER AND RADIO STATION BOTH CARRIED SEPT. 10 COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT WARNING OF "REACTIONARY DESIGN TO OVERTHROW CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN NEXT FEW DAYS."

10. US NAVY PRESENCE IN AREA, CONSISTING OF THREE DESTROYERS AND ONE SUBMARINE, HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MONTHS AS PART OF THE 14TH ANNUAL JOINT ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE TRAINING EXERCISE WITH OTHER HEMISPHERE NAVIES
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INCLUDING CHILEAN. OUR SHIPS WERE SCHEDULED TO SAIL MORNING SEPT. 11 FROM PERUVIAN WATERS TO JOIN CHILEAN ELEMENTS FOR MANEUVERS. THE SCHEDULE WAS NOT CHANGED UNTIL AFTER NEWS REACHED WASHINGTON THAT COUP ATTEMPT WAS IN PROGRESS. A CHANGE IN SCHEDULE WAS THEN MADE IMMEDIATELY, PRECISELY TO AVOID ALLEGATIONS THAT US WAS INVOLVED.

11. AMBASSADOR DAVIS' RETURN TO US WAS IN CONNECTION WITH CONSULTATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED BY SECRETARY-DESIGNATE KISSINGER. THE AMBASSADOR RETURN TO SANTIAGO IMMEDIATELY AFTER SEEING DR. KISSINGER BECAUSE OF THE TROUBLED SITUATION IN CHILE WHICH WAS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. THUS, THE TIMING OF THE AMBASSADOR'S TRIP WAS NOTHING

MORE THAN COINCIDENCE.

RUSH

UNQUOTE

KISSINGER

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NNN

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